

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 Sub 3' >

1. A tripod bearing assembly comprising:  
a spider assembly having a trunion radially  
projecting therefrom;  
a bearing assembly press fit onto the trunion,  
the bearing assembly comprising an inner race, an outer  
10 race, and a plurality of needle rollers interposed  
therebetween to permit relative rotation between the  
inner and outer race; and  
means for axially retaining the bearing  
assembly to the spider.

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2. A spider assembly according to claim 1,  
further comprising said trunion having a non-machined  
outer surface for press-fit engagement with the inner  
race of the bearing assembly.

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3. A spider assembly according to claim 2,  
further comprising a means for angularly retaining the  
bearing to the trunion.

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4. A bearing assembly according to claim 3,  
wherein the inner race comprises a formed cup.

5. A bearing assembly according to claim 4,  
wherein the cup is formed by drawing.

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6. A method of assembling a tripod bearing  
assembly including a spider, comprising:  
forming a plurality of trunions on the spider;

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press fitting a bearing assembly onto the  
trunion, the bearing assembly comprising an inner race,  
an outer race, and a plurality of rollers interposed  
therebetween to permit relative rotation between the  
5 inner and outer race; and  
axially retaining the bearing assembly to the  
spider.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the  
10 trunion is forged and the bearing is press-fit onto the  
trunion without machining the trunion.

8. A method according to claim 7, further  
comprising the step of angularly retaining the bearing to  
15 the trunion.

9. A method according to claim 8, further  
comprising the step of drawing the inner race.

20 *Sub B2* 10. A tripod bearing assembly including a  
spider, comprising:

a non-machined trunion radially provided on the  
spider, the trunion comprising an undercut adjacent the  
spider, a cylindrical surface, and a snap ring groove  
25 axially spaced from the undercut;

a bearing assembly press-fit onto the trunion  
between the spider and snap ring groove, the bearing  
assembly comprising an inner race, an outer race, and a  
plurality of needle rollers interposed therebetween to  
30 permit relative rotation between the inner and outer  
race; and

means for axially and angularly retaining the  
bearing assembly to the spider.

11. A bearing assembly according to claim 10,  
wherein the inner race comprises a formed cup.

12. A bearing assembly according to claim 11,  
5 wherein the cup is formed by drawing.

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